

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, the bill was introduced to clear up some confusion in the statutes. Presently, it provides 90 days for a municipality to decide on a natural gas rate increase. It doesn't change the 90 days but it clarifies the language in the statute. I urge the advancement of LB 494.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, on the bill.

SENATOR DECAMP: I was going to move to adjourn, but I don't think anybody would like that right now.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay. The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The bill is advanced. Let's try LB 558.

CLERK: 558 is somewhere. Mr. President, 558 was a bill introduced by Senator Rupp. (Read title.) First read on January 22, referred to the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee, advanced to General File with committee amendments attached.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rupp, please.

SENATOR RUPP: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the bill began as a simple clean-up bill for Game and Parks removing some ambiguities in the statute. The Lancaster County Sheriff's department and the Animal Control people in Lancaster and Douglas County came to us with some committee amendments suggested that made it substantially more than that. The committee amendments do basically four things. Number one, they provide a detailed definition of the animals for which an individual must obtain a permit from Game and Parks. The types of animals needed for a permit are game animals, birds, fur bearers, endangered and threatened species. The second thing the committee amendments do is outright prohibition against keeping in captivity wolves, skunks, large cats and bears. Believe it or not, they documented for us, there are quite a few people keeping pet cougars and leopards and lions and what have you. Skunks are included because of the rabies threat and there was numerous